

FEB 16 1963

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700300016-8

Per 2 Margaret CHASE
SMITH

MRS. SMITH PICKS DREAM G.O.P. CABINET

BY WILLARD EDWARDS

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Feb. 15—In response to President Kennedy's plea yesterday that critics of his administration should put forward "alternative proposals," Sen. Margaret Chase Smith [R., Me.] today placed in the Congressional Record her recommendations for a new cabinet.

It is a bipartisan group featuring Sen. Harry F. Byrd [D., Va.] as secretary of the treasury and Sen. George D. Aiken [R., Vt.] as secretary of state. Charles Percy of Illinois was suggested as secretary of commerce.

The senator from Maine disclosed she had named her selections in a Lincoln day speech at Riviera, Fla., and was placing them in the record for wider circulation. She had not much hope that they would appeal to the President, she con-



Mrs. Smith and Byrd

ceded, but Abraham Lincoln would have approved, and so might the next Republican President.

Byrd for Bipartisanship

Mrs. Smith wields a deft political needle. In citing the qualifications of her nominees, she uttered some tart remarks indirectly reflecting upon present occupants of the Kennedy cabinet.

Appointment of Byrd, foe of the administration's fiscal policies, she remarked, would "match the present bipartisanship of President Kennedy of having a Republican [C. Douglas Dillon] as secretary of the treasury." [Dillon has fervently espoused Keynesianism for economic ills.]

As secretary of state, Aiken would "keep his feet on the ground and know how to keep from offending our closest neighbor and international brother, Canada."

Percy was cited for "dynamic youth, with his tremendous business experience, who moves forward with vigor, a favorite Kennedy phrase. [Luther H. Hodges, Kennedy's secretary of commerce, is 64, a former governor of North Carolina.]

Tact to Temper Vigor

Other members of the proposed cabinet, with Mrs. Smith's remarks:

For secretary of the interior, Gov. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, to replace Stewart L. Udall. "A young Republican moderate who not only moves forward with vigor but does it in a manner that is not offensive."

For secretary of defense, Rep. Carl Vinson [D., Ga.], chairman of the House armed services committee, to replace Robert S. McNamara. "Vinson knows more about our national defense than any other man in history."

For secretary of health, education, and welfare, Dr. Frances Kelsey, heroine of the thalidomide affair, to replace Anthony Celebrezze, former mayor of Cleveland. "I don't know her politics, but she was fighting thalidomide when others were not."

Nod to Experience

For attorney general, Bernard Segal of Philadelphia, Pa., chairman of the judiciary committee of the American Bar association, to replace Robert F. Kennedy. "Before the Supreme court, he would not be arguing his first case. A real veteran instead of a novice."

For secretary of labor, James Suffridge, president of the Retail Clerks union, to replace Willard Wirtz. "He and his union judge congress on voting records rather than so narrowly on political affiliation that and all Republicans opposed."

For secretary of agriculture, Sen. Milton Young [R., N.D.] to replace Orville Freeman. "The farmers would have confidence in him."

For postmaster general, Sen. Frank Carlson, [R., Kas.], to replace J. Edward Day. "He would run the postoffice like a business and take politics out of the office."

As a final shaft, Mrs. Smith suggested the appointment of Sen. Kenneth Keating [R., N.Y.] as director of the central intelligence agency to replace John A. McCone. "He was right and the CIA was summer and early fall."

Ydg 3-3
Per 2 Kenneth K.
KEATING